

RACAL Meeting Minutes---April 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chair Danny Gourley.

Lisa Shaw proposed **approval of the Minutes from the October 25, 2017**, meeting held via WebEx. Mike Augustine seconded, and they were approved unanimously.

Tina Butcher, Provost of Columbus State University, welcomed the members to the facility and to CSU. She praised Lisa Shaw and the work done by the institution to support Adult Learners who comprise almost 40% of the CSU student population.

OLD BUSINESS

Danny Gourley complimented the USG for the support it provides all institutions in serving Adult Learners, particularly by sponsoring the Adult Learner Symposium beginning later on April 12 lasting through April 13.

Discussion occurred re the **ACE & ACRO Joint Statement on Transfer and Award of Credit**, which led to further dialog about the **Adult Learner Consortium (ALC) Memorandum of Agreement (MOU)**. The MOU expired in June 2016 and must be changed due to the consolidation of numerous original participating institutions. Furthermore, not all USG institutions at the time signed the MOU.

In light of the change in leadership at the USG, the RACAL will include other entities, such as the General Education Council, Transfer Officers, the RAC for Distance Education and the Military Liaisons, and Registrars, in future joint meetings focused on the larger topic of transfer policies among all USG institutions. Carol Adams (UNG), Kevin Cantwell (MGSU), Lisa Shaw/Tina Butler (CSU), Adam Wyatt (Augusta), Georgia Mathews (EGSC), Keith Waugh (Valdosta), Stefane Raulerson (Albany State), Maria Wilson (GA Highlands), Tamra Young (GSU/Perimeter), and Becky Rutherford(KSU) volunteered to participate representing the RACAL.

Discussion then centered on the MOU Establishing the Adult Learning Consortium. Numerous representatives raised concerns about the inconsistencies in awarding of PLA credit across institutions and training and compensation for faculty assessors. Crucial to the future of PLA will be how the system addresses students who move from institution to institution. The MOU states all institutions “agree to accept assessed and transcribed credits from other Consortium members.” However, that condition was never met. An example was cited from Wisconsin where the wording was changed from “will accept” certain scores to “may accept.” Is that the solution for USG? Can we find data to link scores to likelihood of success in an institution’s program?

After distribution of the **SACSCOC Position Statement on the Transfer of Academic Credit**, the RACAL members discussed how to ensure appropriate training for PLA assessors. One option is to create an assessor network to benefit all institutions. Members questioned whether students must complete a PLA course before submitting a portfolio. CAEL standards assert that fees charged for assessment should be based on the services performed in the process and not on the amount of credit awarded to the

student. Although there is no standardization of a fee structure across the USG, members agreed that we should follow CAEL's Standards.

Members reviewed the wording of the MOU, focusing on Purpose and Membership.

A Working Group was created to meet over the summer to rewrite additional sections of the MOU to bring forward as an agenda item at the next RACAL meeting. The group includes Danny Gourley, UWG, Carol Adams, UNG, Becky Rutherford, KSU, Kevin Cantwell, Middle GA State, and Stefane Raulerson Albany State.

NEW BUSINESS

Rosalind Barnes Fowler highlighted the **Stop Out Initiative** started by the System Office recently. Each institution submitted a plan for contacting students who completed hours but never earned a degree. RACAL members should be involved in implementing our respective institution's plan, paying close attention to financial aid implications for students. Roz will be visiting institutions in the coming months and will be a resource for assisting us in serving Adult Learners. Each USG institution has potential to increase enrollment with this student population.

USG has a system-wide **membership in CAEL** but its value for individual institutions is a topic Roz will discuss with CAEL leadership.

Discussion followed a motion to change the **Bylaws Article III. Executive Committee**- four officers—the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, and Recorder represent the four institution sectors to “These officers shall be comprised of representatives of no fewer than two of the USG institution sectors for the purposes ensuring adequate consideration of the needs of differing institutions when planning meetings, conducting elections, and submitting recommendations.” The motion was seconded, discussed and adopted.

Officer elections-Danny Gourley opened the floor for nominations for Chair, Chair-Elect, and Recorder. Carol Adams volunteered to be Chair, and Keith Waugh (Valdosta State University) volunteered to be Recorder. Danny Gourley will serve as Past Chair. Chair-Elect remained open until a later date.

The **next meeting** will potentially be September 11, 2018 at Kennesaw State.

The meeting was adjourned.

In attendance

Carol Adams	University of North Georgia	
Mike Augustine	Georgia College and State University	
Tina Butcher	Columbus State University	
Kevin Cantwell	Middle Georgia State University	
Jerry Drye	Dalton State College	
Roz Barnes Fowler	USG	
Danny Gourley	University of West Georgia	
Elizabeth Hutchins	Dalton State College	
Thomas Koballa	Georgia Southern/Armstrong State	
Matthew Little	Gordon State College	
Georgia Mathews	East Georgia State College	
Tamra Ortgies-Young	Georgia State/Perimeter	
Stefane Raulerson	Albany State University	
Kokila Ravi	Atlanta Metropolitan State College	
Becky Rutherford	Kennesaw State University	
Lisa Shaw	Columbus State University	
Jon Sizemore	BOR	
Keith Waugh	Valdosta State University	
Maria Wilson	Georgia Highlands College	
Adam Wyatt	Augusta University	